

The **Lookout**

April - May 2021



Adirondack Mountain Club — Schenectady Chapter

Dedicated to the preservation, protection and
enjoyment of the Forest Preserve

<http://www.adk-schenectady.org>

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On the
cover

A perfect day of powder cross-country skiing on the Tirrell Pond trail has Rick Morse and Mike Andalucci deep in the woods. Photo by Sally Dewes. Article in Trip Tales.

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April - May 2021

The Lookout

The Newsletter for the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Vigil Sounds Call On Environment & Racism



Mikayla Foster gives an impassioned talk about environmental racism and the need for action. Photo by Mal Provost

With Mohawk River ice floes moving quietly along Riverside Park in Schenectady on a mild March evening, voices were both angry and hopeful in calling for strong environmental awareness and action.

Mikayla Foster spoke of her heritage as a descendant of the enslaved and said Riverside Park itself is "stolen land," referring to Native Americans displaced by white colonists. Of current environmental crises, she said, "I don't want to leave an Earth that is on fire for my descendants." She advised that the group there – about two dozen representing faith communities and political activists – to "lean into uncomfortableness." Activism for the environment, she said, means also combating racism and economic injustice that are endemic in the American economy. If one is to care for the Earth, she said, "Care for the people."

The March 11 gathering was created by a coalition under the leadership of Rev. Dustin G. Wright of Messiah Lutheran Church. He is also the chairman of the Schenectady Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, which was a co-sponsor of the vigil. "What happens to a part of God's creation happens to all of us," he said, calling for stewardship of the natural world.

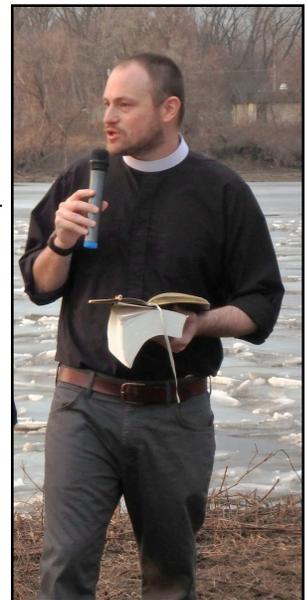
One specific objective was to call for state legislative passage of the Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA). That is a bill now in the Assembly (A09856) and Senate (S03616) environmental conservation

committees that would raise fees from polluting industries and use the money for social and environmental improvements. A press release from the vigil organizers said \$15 billion from the fees over 10 years would focus first on Black, Brown and impoverished communities, then on investments such as solar arrays and green infrastructure.

The coalition organizers defined the vigil as "...part of a statewide and global day of action on climate justice organized by NY Renews and Greenfaith called 'Sacred People, Sacred Earth.'"

Closing the half-hour event, Rev. Daniel Carlson of First Reformed Church of Schenectady said, "All is not lost," and advised the vigil that "Love must translate into actions."

Mal Provost, Conservation Chair



Rev. Dustin Wright introduces speakers at the vigil supporting the Climate and Community Investment Act at Riverside Park, Schenectady, March 11. Photo by Mal Provost

Chapter Objectives Grow As Season Rolls In

Friends,

As a still relatively new member of our Schenectady Chapter, I've been so inspired as I've read more about the work and legacy of Rudy Dehn, our first chapter chair, who we lost last week at age 101. In addition to his tireless work with our chapter and being part of the team that helped invent the microwave oven at GE, he was SO involved in helping his local community in a myriad ways, whether it be with miSci, First United Methodist Church or Habitat for Humanity.

A couple weeks back at our last Chapter Board meeting, we identified a number of goals for our chapter over the next year, and gosh, my hope is that our work reflect and honor Rudy's legacy of community service. In addition to expanding our trail maintenance work and doing additional web advertising to continue growing our chapter and increasing our number of outings, trip leaders and participants by 25 percent -- with a focus on more local, family friendly hikes -- we also identified diversity and conservation as two areas where we'll expand our work.

Heather Ipsen has volunteered to work with me on partnering with COCOA House and local activist Will Rivas on a pilot diversity in the outdoors program. The current plan is to organize a three-part series of outings for 10 to 15 inner city youth. This June our plan is conduct a short hike in Central Park, graduate to Thacher Park in July and hopefully build up to a daylong hike in the Adirondacks this August. There are still many details to be worked out, but stay tuned! On the conservation front, we've made it a goal to involve more of our chapter members in the Main Club's Conservation Committee. As a chapter we will also support local advocacy efforts on the passage of the NYS Climate and Community Investment Act that will help protect not just the Adirondacks but all of us from the most devastating possible effects of climate change.

Thank you for all you do to support the myriad of ways we're serving our community, and hopefully building on Rudy's legacy, as the Schenectady ADK.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dustin G. Wright, Chairman

Environmental Scholarships Deadline April 16

Reminder: The Schenectady Chapter has up to three scholarships to award this year for students entering college who have a conservation orientation.

To apply: Interested candidates should submit an essay describing their motivation for pursuing their particular course of study, their future goals, and any current or past activities that show their commitment to protecting the environment.

Instructions may also be found @ <http://www.adk-schenectady.org/teen-scholarships/>

Submissions should include the following information (**and must be submitted in either Word or pdf format**):

Name

Address

Contact number and email address

Parent's Name(s)

Name of High School

Name of College attending in September

Reference: **Please also include the name, phone number and/or email of a reference we may contact who is able to validate the commitment described.**

Send submissions, no later than April 16 to: jeve3@aol.com (Subject Line: ADK HS Scholarship)

Questions? Call Jacqueline McGinn, HS Scholarship Project Coordinator at 518-281-3673 or email her at jeve3@aol.com.

Jason Waters Loves The Bright Sky, Bags Winter 46

Since our third hike together, I started calling Jason Waters the "Mountain Goat." Impressed -- and a bit jealous -- at his agility maneuvering down the slides of the Great Range, mountain goat seemed a fitting moniker. Now, the name is even more apt, as Jason is celebrating his completion of the Winter 46er challenge.

Jason, 42 and from Rotterdam, was drawn to the wintry peaks after finishing the regular 46 in 2017, attracted to "the challenge of it, and being out there in the cold. I like being out in the cold more than the hot summer days. The view and hikes are much better in the winter than in the summer."

Indeed, Jason's favorite part of his W46er journey were the spectacular winter views. "Every peak is different," he notes. "I'm drawn to the contrast of the white and the blue; the ground and mountains and sky. In the winter, the mountains are more visible. The view is just amazing. There's so much more of a view."

What got Jason hiking in the winter? Tagging along in 2018 with his friend and fellow ADK-Schenectady member Amy Hildreth. After that season, his winter ambitions lapsed for a year, though Jason got into the peak-bagging swing of things in 2020. I have fond memories of winter hiking the Swards, Allen, and Cliff and Redfield last year with Jason, who -- in addition to being agile -- is always prepared and *always* in a great mood. Perhaps his jovial mountain attitude has something to do with the company he keeps. Besides one solo hike up Sawteeth, Jason completed the W46 with his core group of friends, known for their



Celebrating Jason Waters' completion of his Winter 46, from left, are Eric Avery, Kim Dumolin, Jason, Jill Moretto, Victor Medina and Jay Wells

doggedness and sips of whiskey along the way. During COVID-19, especially, hiking with friends became important to Jason. "It's a way for me to connect with people, which is difficult since I've been working from home."

I asked Jason what lessons the snowy mountains had taught him over the last few years. His answer surprised me. "Respect for the mountains, of course. But also about friends; who you can rely on. The winter mountains helped teach me how to read other people and their abilities, and to be there for them if they need help. That people -- and friendships -- are so much more important than bagging any peak." He added that part of that knowledge is also knowing your own limitations. On one attempt up Allen, Jason turned back at the base of the ascent, explaining, "I knew if I hiked up I wouldn't be able to hike back down."

Continued on Page 4

Ididaride Tour To Be Virtual Event For Second Year

This year again, the ADK's Iddaride bicycle tour will be conducted virtually, with individuals or small groups reporting on rides for which they registered and being logged in as finishers. This is the 16th year of the Iddaride and the second forced into virtual reporting due to the pandemic.

Karim Becker, ADK development director, writes: "We hope this will entice riders like you to participate from wherever you live and ride, while still respecting social distancing protocols. You can choose to ride on your favorite routes or trails near home or follow the routes originally planned for the in-person 2020 Iddaride!" These include the 23 mile route (originally a gravel grinder) or the 55 mile road route. Check the ADK website for cue sheets and maps.

The deadline to register is 5 p.m. Aug. 27. Ride anytime between the day you register and Labor Day, Sept. 6. Registration is \$75 for ADK members and \$85 for non members.

Becker advises that to be included in this year's Iddaride Finisher Gallery, riders should upload their route/distance using RidewithGPS or email, and to send a photo of yourself on your route wearing an ADK event shirt, jersey, or other branded item to lauries@adk.org. All registrants will receive an Iddaride! Event T-shirt, which will be mailed in mid-October. Jerseys are available for purchase as well during registration.

Proceeds from Iddaride! support ADK's mission to protect and advocate for New York State's wild lands and waters while also teaching people how to enjoy natural places responsibly. For more details, visit adk.org/iddaride.

Jason Waters Loves The Bright Sky, Bags Winter 46

Continued from Page 3

Jason further explains that winter high peaks are different from the summer, or from ultra hikes because of the importance of preparation: "If you do not have the right gear, you're not going to be able to do some of the peaks, which can cause problems between you and your hiking buddies. It's a key thing, having the right gear."

Luckily, he had all the right gear on his favorite, and most memorable days in the mountains. "It was the McIntyre Range, and we had to use every piece of gear in our bags, from snowshoes to crampons. And then just bare boots on the rocks of Wright."

On 02/21/21 at 11:11a.m. Jason finished his Winter 46er journey on Rocky Peak Ridge with a group of friends. "I'm disappointed," he says. "Yeah. Now I have nothing to do. No, how I feel because I did it? I feel great because I'm in a class of people that is very small. I feel hardy; less than 10 percent of 46ers have done it in the winter."



Jason and his crew celebrate!

Congrats to the Mountain Goat for making it into this strong class of hikers. We wish him the best for his next challenges -- finishing the Northeast Ultra Eight, specifically the Pemi Loop and the Mahoosuc Range in the White Mountains. And then, eventually, completing the three week backpacking trip on the Long Trail.

Mary Zawacki, Web Master

Spring Schedule Eases Into Whitewater Season

Spring is coming, spring is coming and none too soon after the COVID-19 blues we have been in. So here we are. We have put together a light spring schedule for April and May and will revisit that in mid-May for the summer season.

For now we will be doing short runs where paddlers can manage to shuttle safely. At this time the ADK main club does not approve car pooling. Being independent and resourceful people, paddlers have jogged, had family members transport them, bicycled and even one entrepreneur purchased an E-bike to shuttle.

We are still in a pandemic so precautions must be taken. Masks, social distancing, hand (and shared equipment) sanitizing and vaccines rule the day. With vaccinations becoming widespread, rules and restrictions will evolve and more opportunities will be available.



Norm Labbe, left, and Jason Greene on a coldwater run on Schoharie Creek in the early Spring

As always, even under pandemic restrictions, the Schenectady ADK whitewater trip leaders are here to bring paddlers to the Adirondack waters. We provide fun and safe paddling experiences and bring the whitewater experience to new and experienced paddlers alike.

The current schedule will be on the chapter website and emails will go directly to interested paddlers. If you are new to whitewater and need help or are an experienced paddler looking for people to paddle with, we are here. Check out the Schenectady ADK website and contact the trip leader for individual trips or contact me directly whitewater@adk-schenectary.org

Remember, paddlers must follow all CDC, NYS Health and ADK COVID-19 Pandemic guidelines. We will paddle in small groups and be respectful of those around us.

Here are additional resources for you to use.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/going-out.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/organizations/carpooling-fs.pdf> (car pooling fact sheet)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

Ralph Pascale, Whitewater Chair

Spring Whitewater Schedule				
4/3/2021	Saturday	Catskill Creek/Leaders Choice	III	Sally Dewes
4/10/2021	Saturday	Schroon River/Leaders Choice	II/III	Norm Labbe
4/18/2021	Sunday	Schroon River/Leaders Choice	II/III	Ed Martuscello
4/24/2021	Saturday	Schroon River/Leaders Choice	II/III	Mal Provost
5/1/2021	Saturday	Riparius to Glen/Leaders Choice	III	Anthony Cagino
5/8/2021	Saturday	East or West Branch Sacandaga/Leaders Choice	II/III	Rick Gonzales
5/15/2021	Saturday	Schroon River/Leaders Choice	II/III	Ed Martuscello
5/22/2021	Saturday	Riparius to Glen/Leaders Choice	III	Nelson Miller
5/29/2021	Saturday	Sacandaga- Stewarts Dam to the Hudson	II/III	Ed Cunningham

Conservation Report

'Green Amendment' Goes Before Voters In November

In the hubub of a presidential election and the crisis of a pandemic, even major state topics got pared down on the New York State ballot in 2020. Now at least one that got lost in the shuffle will definitely be before voters this November: the Green Amendment to the state Constitution.

This proposal is simple but far reaching and poses important questions to voters. The amendment will add language to Article I of the Constitution that states: "Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment."

The Adirondack Mountain Club and numerous other state environmental advocates have pushed for and supported this amendment for years. Its objective is clear in philosophy, but also specifically puts into state law the right of citizens to challenge state actions on the basis of environmental issues. It requires the state to consider environmental health in its decision-making and presumably opens the door for citizen action on that basis. Peter Iwanowicz, executive director of Environmental Advocates NY, writes in *Adirondack Explorer*: "It will empower people to press government to consider implications to the environment, and ultimately our health, before decisions are made."

Opposition to the amendment cites concern about the possibility of complicated and costly court fights over state policies, based on the very broad interpretations of the amendment as proposed. The Business Council of New York, in an article in the March/April issue of *Adirondack Explorer*, worries that economic development will be frozen by the amendment. (That issue of the *Explorer* and coverage of the amendment in the ADK's magazine *Adirondac* offer much more detail.)

To get on the ballot any constitutional amendment has to pass two successive state legislatures. The Green Amendment was approved by the Senate and Assembly first in 2019, and completed its second legislative approval in February of this year. Now it's up to the voters.

Still unclear as *Lookout* goes to press in mid-March is whether a \$3 billion bond act that was to be on last year's state ballot will appear this year. That was much anticipated as providing money for years to come for environmental improvements in the state, including upgrading public buildings for heat and cooling efficiency, recreational enhancements and girding for problems from climate change. The budget crisis that grew out of the pandemic's whack on business activity forced the withdrawal of that bond proposal, but its objectives are still out there to be dealt with. But even the most casual observer of state politics can see this is a complicated year also.

High Peaks Planning

A study of the management and facilities of the High Peaks was released in January under the Department of Environmental Conservation, highlighting needs that have been critical for some time: More money, more rangers, better information and management of trail conditions and crowding, a permanent advisory group of private and public interests, and shuttles, for a partial list.

The High Peaks Strategic Planning Advisory Group – HPAG – was established in 2019 by DEC to assess the problems of congestion, pedestrian and traffic safety, facilities such as trailhead rest rooms and the long term objectives of maintaining the integrity and beauty of the mountains in the face of overwhelming popularity and traffic. The HPAG members were regional business and political leaders, environmental groups and educators.

The group began work in November of 2019 then continued remotely through the pandemic, which turned out to be a driver of even more traffic in the High Peaks as folks sought outdoor activities. Now the final set of recommendations is really a jumping off point for continued efforts to meet the demands on the region and educate the public as a participant, not just a consumer or commuter.

Mal Provost, Conservation Chair

Outings

Saturday April 3

Young Member Hike: Sunrise on Hurricane Mountain

Class B2B

Mary Zawacki, 914-373-8733

Hurricane Mountain has one of the best eastward views in the Adirondacks; perfect for a sunrise! This 5.6 mile hike has 1,600' of elevation, and to make sure we're there for the show we'll start in the dark at 4am. Headlamps and spikes/snowshoes required, be sure to bring warm layers and perhaps a warm beverage as we might be at the summit for a while! And, since it's Easter weekend, we'll be on the lookout for rabbits and birds' eggs.

Saturday, April 24

Loon Lake Mountain Fire Tower

Class B2B

Jason Waters, 518-369-5516

Join us for a beautiful hike up Loon Lake Mountain, 5.8 miles round trip. This summit offers beautiful views, however the tower is missing steps and is closed so we will not be going up.

Friday, May 14

Paddle the Mohawk River

Class B2C Moderate 7 to 8 miles

Roy and Sue Keats 518-466-8544 or royskipaddle@gmail.com

We plan on paddling the section from Rt. 146 (Rexford Bridge) to Lock 7 and return for a round trip of about 8 miles. This takes us under the new Rexford Bridge, past the cliffs on both the Schenectady and Saratoga County sides of the river, past the GE R&D Center and then into a shallow wide section of the river. Depending on the current we may start at Lock 7 and get pushed back to our car. Please sign up by Wednesday, May 12.

Saturday, May 15

Young Member Hike: Tupper Lake Triad

Class C2C

Dustin Wright, dustingwright@gmail.com or 603-953-8782

Join our Young Member Group as we bag all three Tupper Lake Triad peaks in one day! Especially during mud season, it's helpful to stay relatively low, so these three relatively mellow peaks are great options! All three have wonderful views with a total of about six miles of hiking. Mount Arab even has a fire tower. We'll start there before heading down to Coney and Goodman. Spend time with friends after a hard winter, experience some great views and even earn a patch, all in one glorious day in the Adirondacks!

Sunday, May 16

Erbus Mountain (Lake George area)

Class: B2B

Steve Maloney 518-429-5671; Steveamaloney23@gmail.com or Jason Waters 518-369-5516; jwate78@gmail.com

Meet at Dacy Clearing trailhead parking lot with mask and ready to follow social distancing practices. This moderate hike is 6.5 miles total, out and back. This peak is part of the Lake George 12ster challenge. An official trail does not exist for Erbus Mountain with the hike taking about 4 hours. The number of participants is limited to 10.

Wednesday, May 19

Battenkill River Paddle

Class B2C+

Marc Limeri, text 518-545-6456 or wwebbie@yahoo.com

We'll paddle about 7 miles on the Battenkill from the West Arlington covered bridge to the Eagleville covered bridge (2 of the 4 covered bridges on the river). This is not a whitewater trip, but there are some riffles and in the spring the river flows quickly. Rain or cold weather will cancel.

Friday, May 21

Warren County Bikeway to Lake George

Class: A2B 17 mile round trip and about 600' elevation gain each way

Contact: Roy Keats at 518-466-8544

or royskipaddle@gmail.com

This is nice ride from Glens Falls to Lake George and return to Glens Falls. It has a variety of scenery along the way from residential to golf courses, and a historic path for battles during the French and Indian War. This path is on our gradual climb to a high point going over French Mountain with historic signs along the way followed by a gradual downhill to Lake George. There is a 1.2 mile section on a two lane road with a good shoulder. Rain will cancel. Please sign up by Wednesday, May 19.

Saturday, May 22

Bailey Pond and Hoffman Notch trail maintenance trip.

Class: C3B

Leader: Mike Brun, 518-487-8054, brunmets@verizon.net

Our chapter maintains these two trails, both accessible from the Loch Muller trailhead. The trails are short, just over 1 mile each, so we will do both in one day. We will do light maintenance: side-cutting, clearing blow-down that we can move and report larger stuff to rangers. Chapter has some tools for us to use, but you are welcome to bring your own.

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

<u>Distance</u>	<u>Leader's Pace</u>	<u>Terrain</u>	<u>Examples</u>
A+ 13 Miles or More	1. Fast	A Very Difficult	A+1A Most Difficult Trip
A 8-12 Miles	2. Moderate	B Strenuous	B2C Moderate Trip
B 5-8 Miles	3. Slow	C Average	C3D Easy Trip
C Under 5 Miles		D Easy	

Rudy Dehn, Charter Member Of Chapter, Dies At 101

Rudy Dehn, a founder and charter member of our chapter and its first chair, passed away on Feb. 24 at the age of 101. He was an active member of the Schenectady Chapter for nearly 78 years, a record that will be hard to surpass!

Born in 1919 in New Jersey, Rudy received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the Newark College of Engineering. After graduating in 1941, Rudy was recruited by GE and sent to MIT, where he learned about microwave radar. Shortly thereafter, he was transferred to Schenectady. Rudy had a long and distinguished career at GE's research lab, becoming a world-class expert in microwave technology. He was a key contributor to the development of GE's microwave oven and was awarded numerous patents for his inventions.

In 1945, Rudy married Elizabeth Turner, and the couple built a home in Niskayuna, where they raised three children.

With his love of nature and the outdoors, Rudy joined the OYKs, a social and outings group of young people associated with the YMCA and YWCA, shortly after his arrival in Schenectady. In 1942, the idea of an ADK chapter based in Schenectady was first conceived at a lunch meeting between Rudy, P.F. "Fay" Loope (Schenectady YMCA's program leader) and William Teare (GE engineer and ADK member). In the spring of 1943, ADK granted a charter to the new chapter, known as the Bouquet River Lodge (BRL) Chapter because its outdoor activities were based at the YMCA-owned Bouquet River Lodge near Elizabethtown. OYK members formed the nucleus but the new chapter quickly attracted a much wider membership. The name was changed to the Schenectady Chapter in 1958.



Rudy was elected to be the first chair of the BRL Chapter in 1943. He also served on the ADK main club board (1945) and as BRL outings chair (1944-1945) and membership chair (1946-1947). As chapter historian, I often talked with Rudy about the early days, and he was a wonderful source of fascinating reminiscences, old artifacts and photographs about early chapter outings and weekends at Bouquet River Lodge and elsewhere in the Adirondacks.

In addition to his chapter involvement, Rudy was active for decades with the main club. He particularly loved to volunteer at Adirondak Loj work weekends and continued to do so even as his age advanced. Not many years ago, he went to a work weekend and asked how he could help, given his age and physical limitations. He was told that he might assist in removing a tree that was threatening to fall on part of the facility. Rudy said he would be happy to help, and then added that he had planted that tree as a seedling in the early 1960s! ADK honored him with a Distinguished Volunteer award in 2013, and last year our chapter presented him a Fellow of the Chapter award.

Volunteering was a way of life for Rudy. In addition to his ADK activities, he volunteered for the Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County, the Museum of Innovation and Science (miSci), and the Friends of the Schenectady County Library. Rudy was active in the Elfun Society's Science For Kids program and served for several years as a trustee of the First United Methodist Church in Schenectady.

Rudy was a very friendly, open and engaging person. We'll miss him. A celebration of his life is planned when it becomes safe for large groups to gather.

Norm Kuchar, Historian

Trip Tales

XC Tirrell Pond

Friday, Jan. 22

Wow! The conditions into Tirrell Pond were fabulous! We went about 6.5 miles in from the top of Blue Mountain Hill, to Tirrell Pond, and out on the NPT to Lake Durant. There was very thick base with over a foot of powder on top. We went about a mile on broken trail and then we had to break the rest of it. At some points I was sinking to my thighs in light fluffy powder. Amazing conditions! Skiers were Rick Morse, Morris Kopels, Mike Andalucci and Sally Dewes.

XC Cole's Woods at Night

Saturday, Feb. 6

Two great nights of skiing on Cole's Woods' 5k lighted trail. Snow conditions were really good, the temperatures were comfortable and all the lights were working! Participants were Cathy Fleming (Feb 6), Mike Skrebutenas (Feb 20), and Marc Limeri, leader.

Young Adult Hike: Flume Knob

Saturday, Feb. 6

A small but courageous crew of Dustin Wright, Rachel Longmire and Alex Waite ascended to Flume Knob after checking out the beautiful partially frozen flume right near Wilmington. The trail was pretty packed down for much of the journey but Rachel and Alex, as relatively newer snowshoers, sure found out what breaking trail with a whole lot of fresh powder was like for the last half mile or so. Views from the knob were a partial whiteout with light snow falling. It was beautiful! After completing the hike, Dustin and Rachel headed over to Saranac Lake to catch the annual Winter Carnival Fireworks, this year with everyone parking their cars in front of Lake Flower and viewing at a distance. A fun day was had by all!

Ski to Rock Pond on NPT

Saturday, Feb. 13

Eight of us, Bob Brand, Roman Laba, Steve and Leslie Siegard, Dan Lewis, Shelly Nevard, Marc Limeri and Mike Brun, leader, skied from the NPT trailhead on Godfrey Road to Rock Lake. Snow conditions were excellent, a solid base with 6-9" of powder on top. Some snowshoers went before us, so we did not have to break trail. The weather was great, instead of the predicted low teens, the temperature went to 24F. We stopped about a half mile short of the lake for lunch and followed our tracks back. We skied 7 miles with 1,000 ft. elevation in 5.5 hrs. One of the skiers had an equipment malfunction when the top of his boots detached from the sole. Other members of the party had some duct tape and extra shoe laces to do a temporary repair of the boot. The repair was successful, and the boot survived the 3.5 mile return trip to the trailhead.

Climb Prospect Mountain - the backside

Saturday, Feb. 20

We started this hike at the Lake George Recreation Center Cross Country Ski Trails. We followed the blue markers for the Berry Pond Trail for a short distance then stayed to the right at intersections to follow Gage Brook. We crossed over the brook on a bridge at about 0.7 miles. We continued along the stream before taking a sharp right to continue on a steady uphill until several more turns and steady uphill led us to the parking lot at the top. The scenery along the stream and the views out as we neared the top were great. We crossed over the lot, climbed the ramp and stairs (covered by 2 feet of snow), and looked out over a beautiful blue sky view of Lake George. Note, this is not an official marked trail, but has occasional faint paint blazes. There were quite a few snowmobilers at the top. We then reversed our hike to the bottom for a total of about a 5 mile round trip. It is much more enjoyable than the standard route. The participants were Ken and Nilde Marcinowski, Laura Fiske, Cathy Fleming, Bob Boromisa, and Roy Keats, leader.

Young Adult Hike: Hunter & SW Hunter

Saturday, March 6

Rachel Longmire, Jeff Newsome and Dustin Wright had an epic day in the Catskills! Beginning their hike at the Spruceton Road trailhead, the group decided on a counterclockwise loop, first ascending to the herd path to SW Hunter through a fairly well broken trail. Rachel bagged her first Catskill canister before heading over to Hunter itself for STUNNING views from the fire tower. Walking down the bridle path back to the trailhead made for a lovely way to wrap up the day!



Heading up to Rock Pond are Roman Laba, Marc Limeri and Shelly Nevard. Dan Lewis and Bob Brant are the next two in front.

the Lookout

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